

Gloucestershire, was frequently used, to The
 Argoed in
 Monmouthshire, another large house,
 overhanging a
 romantically lovely part of the Wye valley, the
 younger
 members of the family were apt to be
 despatched at seasons
 when the elder were entertaining house parties
 at Standish
 At any given moment, one or two of the girls
 might be
 abroad, either finishing their education (which,
 of course,
 was a matter of governesses and tutors, not
 of school)
 on the Continent, or accompanying their
 father on one
 of his numerous business trips to the United
 States, Canada
 or elsewhere The whole scale of existence
 was rich,
 ample, various and important Not only did the
 Potters
 occupy a series of extensive and expensive
 houses; they
 moved, as of easy natural right, in the best
 circles those
 socially distinguished and those moreover
 politically and
 intellectually most commanding Their
 friends were
 people at the tops of their respective trees;
 within that
 limitation to those somehow or other
 prominent, their
 acquaintance showed a vast diversity, and was
 governed
 by an easy unconventional tolerance,
 especially on the
 part of the father, it covered all the worlds then
 recognised,
 in specimens of kaleidoscopic variety The
 world of
 labour, of course, was hardly recognised as
 one labour,
 Mr Potter, kindly but quite instinctively,
 regarded as a
 commodity

While the whole atmosphere was one of
 success, of easy
 mastery and accepted command, life was not in
 the ordinary

materialist sense luxurious Beatrice Potter, in the clear-cut picture she was later to draw of it, says

" There was no consciousness of superior riches on the contrary, owing to my mother's utilitarian expenditure (a discriminating penuriousness which I think was traditional in families nsing to industrial power during the Napoleonic wars) the Pottei girls were brought up to 'feel poor' " ¹

Apprenticeship